

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9234

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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DIA

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR, VAIHINGEN, GERMANY

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

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SUBJECT: GUIDE TO ANDREOTTI'S VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

DEPARTMENT MAY WISH PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. ADDRESSEES MAY FIND FOLLOWING SCENARIO USEFUL IN
FOLLOWING ANDREOTTI'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A MINORITY
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) GOVERNMENT. THE FIRST STEP WILL
TAKE PLACE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 4 WHEN ANDREOTTI PRESENTS
HIS GOVERNMENT AND PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENT, FIRST TO THE SENATE
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AND THEN TO THE CHAMBER. THE LOWER HOUSE WILL NOT BEGIN

DEBATE UNTIL THE SENATE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IS COMPLETED (PROBABLY ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, OR SATURDAY). THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IS TO BEGIN DISCUSSION ON MONDAY AND COMPLETE ACTION AUGUST 12-13, AND POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS AUGUST 11.

2. WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE MINISCULE SVP PARTY (ALTO-ADIGE), ALL OTHER PARTIES ARE EXPECTED EITHER TO ABSTAIN OR VOTE AGAINST ANDREOTTI'S GOVERNMENT. THE NEW GOVERNMENT, IN ORDER TO PASS AS EXPECTED, WILL THEREFORE (AT LEAST INITIALLY) "FLOAT ON A SEA OF ABSTENTIONS" (AS THE ITALIAN PRESS CHARACTERIZES THE SITUATION). THE MOST NOTABLE POTENTIAL ABSTAINERS ARE OF COURSE THE COMMUNISTS.

3. THE FOLLOWING SITUATION OBTAINS IN THE SENATE:

-- OF THE 322 SEATS, THE DC CAN COUNT ON ONLY 140 AFFIRMATIVE VOTES (THE 135 DC SENATORS, 3 LIFE SENATORS (MONTALE, MERZAGORA, GRONCHI), ONE INDEPENDENT (ZAPULLI) AND PROBABLY ONE VALDOSTANO. FANFANI'S VOTE, AS SENATE PRESIDENT, DOES NOT COUNT.

-- 15 MSI/DN (NEO-FASCIST RIGHT) ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE AGAINST ANDREOTTI.

-- 167 ARE EXPECTED TO ABSTAIN (PCI, INDEPENDENT LEFT, PSI, PRI, PSDI, AND POSSIBLY THE TWO LIBERALS AS WELL AS THE 2 ALTOADIGE SENATORS).

4. IN THE SENATE, HOWEVER, ABSTENTIONS COUNT AS NEGATIVE VOTES. IF ALL THE SENATORS WERE PRESENT, THE DC'S 140 VOTES WOULD FALL SHORT OF THE NECESSARY, THEORETICAL MAJORITY (162). ABOUT 50 SENATORS WILL THEREFORE BE REQUIRED TO ABSENT THEMSELVES DURING THE VOTE, REDUCING THE NUMBER NEEDED FOR A MAJORITY TO 137, AND PERMITTING ANDREOTTI TO GET BY.

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5. IN THE CHAMBER, ABSTAINING MEANS JUST WHAT IT SAYS. HERE, THE VOTE IS EXPECTED TO SHOW 262 IN FAVOR, 322 ABSTAINING, AND 44 AGAINST:

-- THE DC WILL MUSTER ITS FULL STRENGTH OF 262.
-- THE PCI (INCLUDING THE 1 PCI/PSI/PDU SEAT-- VAL D'-9 5-) SHOULD HAVE 228 ABSTAINING (CHAMBER PRESIDENT INGRAO (PCI) CAN'T

VOTE). IN ADDITION, 57 PSI, 5 PLI, 15
PSDI, 14 PRI AND 3 SVP (ALTO-ADIGE) ARE
EXPECTED TO ABSTAIN.

-- 34 MSI/DN ARE EXPEDTED TO VOTE AGAINST
ANDREOTTI (ONE LESS THAN FULL STRENGTH
SINCE AN ARREST WARRANT IS OUTSTANDING FOR
SENATOR SACCUCCI). IN ADDITION, THE 6
DEMOCRAT-PROLETARIANS AND 4 RADICALS
(EXTREME LEFT) WILL VOTE AGAINST.VOLPE

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